

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 M-03 A-01

OPR-02 SY-10 OC-06 CCO-00 AID-20 NIC-01 AF-10 SCS-03

SCA-01 OMB-01 EB-11 COME-00 PER-05 RSR-01 /179 W

----- 024550

O 101138 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2040

DIA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5294

DEPT ALSO FOR CAIRO

SITREP 11

E. O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PINS, LE

SUBJECT: INTERNAL SECURITY SITREP 11

1. SITUATION IN BEIRUT AND ELSEWHERE IN LEBANON AS OF 1030 Z IS
QUIET. THERE WERE FURTHER EXCHANGES OF ARTILLERY, MORTAR AND
ROCKET FIRE BETWEEN FEDAYEEN AND ARMY POSITIONS IN SOUTH
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BEKAA- ARKUB NIGHT OF MAY 9-10, BUT THEY TAILED OFF IN THIS SECTOR BEFORE DAYBREAK. EARLIER DURING DAY MAY 9, RAYAK AIRBASE IN MIDDLE BEKAA RECEIVED ROCKET AND ARTILLERY FIRE, BUT NO SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE REPORTED. (ARMY SUSPECTS SYRIAN REGULAR ARTILLERY AND COMMUNICATIONS UNITS PLAYED SUPPORT ROLES IN THESE ATTACKS.) ARMY HAS ALSO INFORMED US OF ARTILLERY ATTACK AGAINST AL QLAIAAT AIRBASE NEAR COAST NORTH OF TRIPOLI IN EARLY MORNING MAY 10, AND WE HAVE ADDITIONAL UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT COASTAL ROAD LEADING INTO SYRIA CAME UNDER SHELL- FIRE AT SAME TIME. ATTACKERS APPEAR TO HAVE WITHDRAWN SEVERAL HOURS AGO, HOWEVER, AND ARMY SAYS IT NOW IN FULL CONTROL OF THAT AREA. ARMY ANNOUNCED ITS FORCES ARE ABIDING BY CEASE- FIRE COUNTRY- WIDE AND ARE EXERCISING UTMOST RESTRAINT. AT SAME TIME, IT HAS ORDERED RETIRED ARMY PERSONNEL, PARTICULARLY THOSE WITH TECHNICAL EXPERTISE, TO RETURN TO ACTIVE DUTY. ARMY- FEDAYEEN MIXED COMMITTEES ARE ACTIVELY TRYING WORK OUT DETAILS OF NEW UNDERSTANDING AND ENFORCE CEASE- FIRE.

2. IN BEIRUT PROPER, NIGHT PASSED WITHOUT INCIDENTS, AND INTERNAL SECURITY OFFICIALS TELL US CEASE- FIRE APPEARS BE HOLDING " BETTER THAN EVER". RELIABLE UNTSO SOURCE, HOWEVER, OBSERVED AS LATE AS 0745 Z WHAT WAS EITHER INTERMITTENT (1-2 ROUNDS PER MINUTE) SNIPING OR HARASSMENT FIRE STILL BEING DELIVERED FROM ARMY POSITIONS AREOUND SPORTS CITY AGAINST SABRA/ CHATILA AREA TO EAST. (HE ALSO REPORTS UNUSUALLY HEAVY ISRAELI AIR ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT MORNING WEST TO EAST ALONG SOUTHERN BORDER, TURING SOUTH OVER GOLAN.) CURFEW LIFTED IN BEIRUT FOR THREE HOURS MORNING MAY 10 AND WILL BE LIFTED AGAIN FOR 5 HOURS THIS AFTERNOON.

3. JOINT ARMY- FEDAYEEN MILITARY COMMITTEE MET LATE MAY 9 TO REVIEW EVENTS SINCE MAY 8 CEASE- FIRE CAME INTO EFFECT AND AGREED ON SERIES OF MEASURES AIMED AT IMPROVING ITS EFFECTIVENESS AND STABILIZING " FRATERNAL UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION". PRESS ACCOUNTS, WHILE SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTORY ON DETAILS, INDICATE MEASURES AGREED UPON WERE AS FOLLOWS: (A) TOTAL CESSATION OF FIRING BY BOTH SIDES IN EASTERN SECTOR, (B) CESSATION OF PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGNS BY EACH SIDE AGAINST THE OTHER, (C) ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT LIAISON POINTS EQUIPPED WITH RADIO AND MOBILE UNITS AT VISIBLE LOCATIONS AROUND BEIRUT CAMPS, (D) ISSUANCE OF FIRM ORDERS BY BOTH SIDES FOR STRICT ADHERENCE TO CEASE- FIRE IN ALL SECTORS, CONFIDENTIAL

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(E) IN EVENT OF ANY VIOLATION, AVOIDANCE OF SPONTANEOUS REACTION UNTIL MIXED PATROLS CAN DEAL WITH INCIDENT IN QUIET, PEACEFUL MANNER. (OTHER ACCOUNTS CLAIM THAT THERE WAS DISCUSSION OF SHIFTING FEDAYEEN HEAVY WADPONS IN CAMPS NEAR HEAVILY INHABITED AREAS TO LESS SENSITIVE POSITIONS

OR EVEN TO WITHDRAW THEM FROM CAMPS ALTOGETHER. WE DO NOT BELIEVE FEDAYEEN HAVE AGREED TO ANY SIGNIFICANT STEP IN THIS REGARD.)

4. AIRPORT STILL CLOSED, BUT AIRPORT AND ARMY OFFICIALS WILL MEET TO REVIEW SITUATION LATER TODAY WITH VIEW TO POSSIBLE OPENING THIS EVENING OR TOMORROW MORNING. DUE TO CURFEWS, SLOWDOWN IN COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY, CLOSURE OF SYRIAN BORDER, AND FAILURE OF MANY PORT WORKERS TO SLOW UP FOR WORK, BEIRUT PORT HEAVILY CONGESTED WITH ABOUT 40 SHIPS WAITING TO DISCHARGE CARGOES.

5. EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS STILL SAFE AS ARE MEMBERS AMERICAN COMMUNITY.

6. ON POLITICAL FRONT, COMMITTEE OF DEPUTIES CONTINUING WORK ON RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING MEASURES COPE WITH SITUATION WHILE PRESIDENT FRANGIE CONTINUES RECEIVE VARIOUS POLITICAL AND CONFESSIONAL LEADERS IN EFFORT MAINTAIN NATIONAL UNITY. EFFECTS OF MAY 9 MEETINGS AND STATEMENTS BY RELIGIOUS LEADERS REPORTED BENEFICIAL IN CALMING POPULATION. HOWEVER, SOME PARTS OF SIDON, TRIPOLI AND TYRE REPORTED TO BE UNDER DOMINATION OF FEDAYEEN AND LEBANESE SYMPATHIZERS WITH ARMY AND POLICE ASSIDUOUSLY STAYING AWAY. SUNNI MOSLEM AREAS OF BEIRUT REMAIN APPARENTLY CALM BUT THIS MAY ONLY BE FUNCTION OF GENERAL RELAXATION OF TENSION THROUGHOUT CITY.
HOUGHTON

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED CAIRO

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